



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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CAMPAIGN 2000: INITIATIVE TO BAN GAY MARRIAGE LEADING IN POLL. YES SIDE ORGANIZES CAMPAIGN.

Editor's note: State Sen. Pete Knight(R-Palmdale) and those who are supporting his initiative to ban gay marriages in Calif. have hired a staff to run what promises to be a contentious campaign. And there's also a new poll showing Knight's initiative in the lead. Here is our update & analysis...

...The initiative statute is called Definition of Marriage, but the formal name for the YES side is *Defense of Marriage Committee*. Lead consultant/campaign director is Chuck Cavalier. Rob Stutzman, who until recently handled communications in the AG's office under Dan Lungren, will be the daily mgr. Research will be done by Wirthlin Worldwide and the legal end of the campaign is being handled by S.F.-based Bagatelos & Fadem. The fundraising is being done by The Bovee Co. of Sacto. Overall, it's an experienced team. The big question is what kind of money the committee can raise. This is really the key to the operation – thus much is riding on John Bovee's expertise...

...In the midst of the YES side's organizing, pollster Mervin Field recently released results of his survey which shows that only 20% of those questioned were even aware of Sen. Knight's initiative. But when all voters were read a brief ballot summary, 55% were in favor vs. 39% opposed and 6% with no opinion. The poll was taken Mar. 3-14 among 718 registered voters. FYI: in 1997, Field tested this same subject. 56% disapproved of gay marriages vs. 38% who approved...

...Compared to another contentious initiative, Prop. 187 of 1994, the DOMA (popular acronym for *Defense of Marriage Act*) initiative starts out lower in the polls. Field's first poll for 187 (8/94) put the YES side at 64%. As one anti-DOMA source told Calpeek, "Vot-

ers may be growing tired of these initiatives attempting to change the social fabric of Calif. by imposing mean-spirited and intolerant views."...

...FYI: while this initiative is hardly off the ground, there are a number of bills dealing with gay rights and domestic partnership which are making their way through the Calif. Legislature. One bill would establish formal, registered domestic partners. Some gays see domestic partnerships as an alternative to marriage, while opponents view domestic partnership as a first step leading to gay marriages. Like we said: a very contentious subject. Stay tuned...

ROD PACHECO OUSTED AS GOP ASSEMBLY LEADER

Editor's note: In Calpeek's Mar. 8th edition, we noted that GOP Assembly Leader Rod Pacheco of Riverside was on *thin ice* and had just barely avoided being removed as GOP leader on Mar. 2nd. Pacheco had nearly a full month to improve his relationship with disgruntled members, but didn't do a thing. So on April 6th the 32-member Republican Caucus dumped Pacheco on a 17-15 vote and replaced him with Scott Baugh of Huntington Beach. Here's our update & analysis...

...As Calpeek noted more than a month ago, Pacheco had both a *style & substance* problem with his GOP Caucus. The substance part of the problem had to do with Pacheco's ability to raise money for the 2000 elections. Members didn't think Pacheco was cutting it. In terms of style, sources say Pacheco was both *abrasive* and *arrogant*. And when he called members Bill Leonard, Bruce Thompson and Roy Ashburn the "3 Stooges" (for their efforts on behalf of Texas Gov. George W. Bush), that's what set off the first removal attempt by Ashburn. That effort fell 1 vote short when GOP member Patricia Bates of Orange Co. backed away at the last minute...

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...As for Baugh, he had been part of Pacheco's leadership team, but resigned when the two fell out. Pacheco reportedly said he didn't trust Baugh. But that's not all. According to our sources, Pacheco also told Baugh that if he (Pacheco) had been the prosecutor, Baugh would have been put in jail for those campaign reporting violations. FYI: just 2 weeks ago, Calif. AG Bill Lockyer (D) dropped the criminal complaints against Baugh and turned the reporting violations over to the FPPC, thus ending Baugh's 4 year legal ordeal stemming from the 1995 recall of Doris Allen (R)...

...Key players in the effort to oust Pacheco were GOP political consultants David Gilliard & Natallie Blanning. Sources confirm there was bad blood between Pacheco and Gilliard/Blanning. The pair not only represented Baugh, but also Patricia Bates. You get the picture...

...Some of the "outsider" spin is that Pacheco was dumped by a coup organized by the Orange Co. GOP Junta and that part of the reason for Pacheco's removal was that he is a moderate/pro-choice Goper. That's a spin with *no legs* because many of Pacheco's strongest supporters are pro-life. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '99: EARLY SPRING MUNI ELECTIONS.

Editor's note: Here is another update on early spring municipal elections. The big election in Los Angeles is April 13th...

☒ **Long Beach** – In the Mar. 30th special election to replace Alan Lowenthal on the Long Beach Council, the winner was 33-year-old U.S. Customs officer Dan Baker. He got 1,417 votes (37.5%) in this winner-take-all special. His nearest rival was Clive Graham, who got 19.2%. There were 8 other candidates. The Primacy Group of San Diego was the lead consultant, with locals Mike Orlito and Diane Wiley handling the GOTV and fundraising...

☒ **Glendale** – Glendale CofC Bd. member Rafi Manokian and Deputy AG Gus Gomez were both elected to the city council April 6th. **Calpeek** had listed both as top tier candidates in our Feb. 8th edition. And both were supported by Assemblyman Scott Wildman (D-Burbank)...

☒ **L.A. School Board Election** – Sources believe that L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan's \$1.7 million effort

to dump 3 incumbent school board members will be modestly successful. Riordan is backing 3 challengers: Caprice Young over Jeff Horton; Genethia Hayes over Barbara Bourdreaux; and Mike Lansing over George Kiriya. The only incumbent Riordan is backing is David Tokofsky. All 4 of Riordan's choices have been endorsed by the *L.A. Times*. The toughest battle is in the 1st District, where just about every Black elected official (except L.A. Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas) has rallied around Bourdreaux. The LAT's editorial ripped Bourdreaux, but sources think it's an uphill battle for Hayes, despite her exceptional qualifications...

...The overall issue facing voters is the Board's mismanagement – with the prime example being the \$200 million Belmont Learning Complex, built next to an old oil field (methane gas, toxics, etc.). This mega buck fiasco is the focus of a large cable tv buy on behalf of Riordan candidates Young and Lansing...

...Although there's no poll on individual races for the school board, the LAT released a survey on April 3rd which showed that 43% of all voters have a negative opinion of the Board. And 48% of voters with school age kids don't look favorably at the board. How this translates on April 13th is anyone's guess...

☒ **L.A. City's 14th District** – With what seems like a ton of candidates, there will be a June 8th runoff. The big question: who makes the runoff? Our sources see 5 top tier candidates: Victor Griego, who recently got the endorsement of L.A. Co. Sup. Gloria Molina; Nick Pacheco, Juan Jose Gutierrez, Alvin Parra and Luis Cetina. Of these 5, most agree that Griego will finish either 1st or 2nd...

☒ **L.A. City's 7th District** – Sources say neither top tier candidates Corinne Sanchez nor Alex Padilla have the clout to win Richard Alarcon's seat without a June 8th runoff. And there's little doubt these two will square off. There are six candidates in the field + two write-ins...

☒ **L.A. City's Prop. 1** – Sources believe L.A. City's \$744 million police & fire bond measure will NOT get the required 2/3rds vote needed for passage. The first opposition group is now on record. It's called *No Bonds Now Coalition* – with attorney Bill Powers and Carlos Ferreyra as co-chairs. This group sees the

bonds as running up the city's debt, making it more difficult for the San Fernando Valley cityhood movement. Interesting spin. Stay tuned...

OPEN PRIMARY LEGISLATIVE FIX HITS A BIG SNAG.

Editor's note: Legislative efforts to fix Calif.'s Open Primary Law hit a major snag when the lead bill reached Gov. Gray Davis' desk. Here's our update...

...The lead bill designed to fix the presidential delegate selection flaw in Calif.'s Open Primary Law is SB 100 by Senate President John Burton(D). Burton's bill was approved by both houses and was put on Davis' desk, only to be returned by Davis. Reason: the two-ballot solution outlined in SB 100 may violate the Open Primary Law – at least that's the legal opinion of both CA Sec. of State Bill Jones(R) and Calif. AG Bill Lockyer (D). They believe the two-ballot drill can only be accomplished via another statewide public vote...

...Under both RNC and DNC rules, only party members can select delegates to the presidential nominating conventions, thus Calif.'s open primary law (where voters can cross party lines) may violate RNC/DNC rules. Another legislative remedy is by State Sen. Steve Peace(D), which calls for a single, color-coded ballot, which would be *recounted* a second time. Peace's fix is part of SB 100 and is also contained in a separate bill, SB 28. The recount will remove the cross party voting element. But there's another question: how to pay for the recount? Some think the State should pick up the tab, while others say the two major parties should pay for it...

...This whole debate is taking longer than expected to resolve and there are some who think Gov. Davis should just sign SB 100 and let the courts decide if it is constitutional. Sources say Lockyer is prepared to go to court to fight SB 100. On the other hand, Davis owes much to the Open Primary Law and can ill afford to anger voters who strongly support it...

...FYI: Sen. Peace is a key player in this whole debate because he and the governor have been very close since their days together in the Assembly. Davis is listening to the El Cajon lawmaker, as is Burton, who is also close to Peace. Peace is a strong supporter of the Open Primary Law. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

Apr. 13	L.A. Muni Election.
Apr. 18	Pat Brown Institute 18 th Annual Awards Dinner, Biltmore Hotel, L.A.
Apr. 20	Pasadena Mayor's runoff election.
Apr. 23	USC's Unruh Inst. of Politics – 40 th anniversary of the Unruh Civil Rights Act, featuring LG Cruz Bustamante & AG Bill Lockyer.
Apr. 28	San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzales delivers State of the City address.
Apr. 29	Demo presidential candidate Bill Bradley addresses Town Hall/L.A...

CAMPAIGN '99: THE INSIDE SCOOP ON HARRIS' LOSS. CALIF.'S GREEN PARTY SCORES BIG UPSET IN 16th AD.

Editor's note: By now most insiders know what happened on Mar. 30th in the 16th AD race when former Oakland Mayor Elihu Harris(D) was defeated by Green Party candidate Audie Bock. Here is our analysis and commentary...

...With just a 15% voter turnout, Harris lost to Bock by 327 votes (50.5% vs. 49.5%). There was no GOP candidate in the runoff. In the primary, Harris got 48.75% vs. just 8.72% for Bock and with such a heavy Demo registration advantage, few (including **Calpeek**) had any doubt that Harris would be elected Mar. 30th...

...However, what insiders didn't know was that Harris had all but shut down his campaign (except for a small crew of workers) 4 days after his Feb. 2nd primary win over attorney Frank Russo...

...If you're looking for one reason to hang the loss on it's the fact that between Feb. 3rd and mid-March Demo consultant John Whitehurst tried *repeatedly* to get Harris to do a **VBM**(vote by mail/absentee voter program). Five times Harris turned Whitehurst down, saying he didn't want to spend the money. And sources confirm that Whitehurst even went to Harris' lead consultant Richie Ross – and Ross was unable to persuade Harris. And while it might be easy to blame Ross for the loss, in this case the candidate deserves the blame. Bock won the AVs by 800 to 1,000. This is what did it...

...When did the Demos figure out that Harris was in trouble? Turns out that Ross (out of his own pocket) paid pollster Jim Moore to do a poll. This was about two weeks out – and past the time for a VBM program. The poll showed Harris ahead, but *in trouble* – and not

over 50%. The poll was presented to Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa 8 days before the election and the Demo Caucus was made aware of the poll the next day – 1 week before the election. Demos stepped up the pace of their GOTV program and it was lucky for the Demos that the Mar. 30th runoff was during Easter Recess. The Demos got about 150 people to walk precincts. Without this last minute effort, sources believe Bock would have won by 2,000 votes. The only Demo members who showed up to walk were Kevin Shelley, Bob Hertzberg, Tom Torlakson, Ellen Corbett, Tony Cardenas and Marco Firebaugh. Not one member of the Black Legislative Caucus showed up!!!

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are few items, political and otherwise, worth noting...

■ **27th CD Update** – State Sen. Adam Schiff(D-Pasadena) is expected to formally announce his candidacy for the 27th CD on April 9th. This is the seat of incumbent U.S. Rep. James Rogan(R-Glendale) who is debating whether to seek reelection or perhaps run for the U.S. Senate against incumbent Dianne Feinstein. Schiff's decision is expected to set off a huge round of *political musical chairs*. If as expected, Demo Assemblymembers Jack Scott of Pasadena and Scott Wildman of Burbank decide to give up another term in the assembly to battle each other in the Demo primary for Schiff's open 21st SD seat, that will leave vacancies in both the 43rd AD (Wildman) and the 44th AD (Scott). Already many Demos & GOPers are lining up. **Calpeek** will have a major update on U.S. House and CA Legislative primaries next week...

■ **Davis' Poll Numbers** – Pollster Mervin Field's latest survey shows Gov. Gray Davis' job approval rating at 58% vs. only 12% negative and 30% with no opinion. Among Demos, Davis' approval rating is 74%...

■ **Keep Your Eyes on these Bills** – SOS Bill Jones (R) is sponsoring AB 120 by Assemblyman Dick Ackerman(R-Fullerton) to require all voters to prove their identity when casting ballots at their polling places... Another bill to watch: AB 1094 by Assemblyman Bob Hertzberg(D-Van Nuys), which ends the 30-day advanced voter registration procedure now in place and instead allows *same-day voter registration*...

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook. We've got a ton of these notes...

- A sad note: former L.A. Co. Sheriff Peter Pitchess, 87, died April 3rd. He led the Sheriff's department from 1958 to 1972. R.I.P...
- Another very sad note: Lisa Ann Rarick, 32, who worked for political consultant David Gould, was killed Mar. 18th when a speeding car driven by Rebecca Taylor crashed into Rarick. Taylor has been charged with 1st degree murder. Before joining Gould's office 15 months ago, Rarick worked for San Diego-based Statecraft. R.I.P...
- Another sad note: Wilson Riles, who in 1970 upset incumbent School Supt. Max Rafferty to become CA's top educator, died April 1st. He was 81. R.I.P...
- Former Orange Co. DA Mike Capizzi has joined the Long Beach law firm of Mayer, Coble & Palmer...
- The CA Healthcare Assn. has named John B. Allard II as VP of grassroots & political activity. The CHA also hired Connie Delgado Alvarez as legislative advocate...
- Richard E. Mallory has been named exec. director of the Inst. of a Better Calif.(IBC), a new group which promotes public/private development partnerships...

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